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MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Number 23.

March, 1916.

THEODORE PERGANDE.

It is with great regret that the death of Theodore Pergande, the oldest assistant in continuous service in the Bureau, is announced. He was born in Germany December 28, 1840; was an expert machinist; came to this country as a young man at the time of the Civil War; entered the northern army, and served through the war. At the close of the war he secured a position in St. Louis, and when Otto Lugger resigned as assistant to Prof. C. V. Riley, at that time State Entomologist of Missouri, Mr. Pergande, who had always been an ardent collector and observer of insects, was appointed as his successor. He came to Washington with Riley when the latter was appointed Entomologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in June, 1878. For many years he had charge of the rearing work of the entomological service, kept the notes, and made the great majority of the biological investigations upon which the entomological publications of the Department were based. Twenty-five years ago an observant expert in one of the other bureaus of the Department remarked that the Division of Entomology without Pergande would be like the play of Hamlet without Hamlet. He died March 23, 1916, after a confinement to his house of less than two weeks. He was not so well known to the younger men in the service, but was held in high respect and affection by the older ones. His publications, especially on the Aphididae, are so well known as to need no special mention here. Funeral services were held at his late residence March 25th.

RELATION OF TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY TO
INSECT DEVELOPMENT.

The attention of the Bureau men is invited to the paper by Mr. Pierce entitled, "A new interpretation of the relations of temperature and humidity to insect development", in the Journal of Agricultural Research, vol.5, No.25. A general discussion of this paper will undoubtedly be profitable. It is desired to publish such comments as other agents may like to make in the forthcoming issue of the News Letter.

Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, Dominion Entomologist, of Ottawa, Canada, visited the Bureau on March 16th.

COMMITTEE ON PROMOTIONS OF SCIENTIFIC EMPLOYEES
IN THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY.

In accordance with Paragraph 26 of the Administrative Regulations of this Department, a committee on promotions of scientific employees in the Bureau of Entomology has been named by the Chief of the Bureau, consisting of Messrs. Quaintance, Marlatt and Hunter. Similar committees have been established in most of the Bureaus of the Department and their assistance has been found to be of much value to the Chief of Bureau in connection with recommendations of employees for promotion.

Careful investigation has been made of methods of work of these committees in other Bureaus and a plan adopted which it is believed will best meet requirements.

Two forms have been prepared as follows: Form 1 is to be filled out by branch chiefs for each scientific employee working under their direction and will include information on the following points:

- (1) Results accomplished. State concisely the work accomplished or discoveries made by employee during his service in the Department, mentioning publications in which his work is reported.
- (2) Special qualifications. Emphasize any special qualifications possessed by the employee, including any of the following that apply to his case:
 - (a) Originality and adaptability in dealing with new problems and lines of work.
 - (b) Training and skill in special methods of investigation.
 - (c) Ability to make full notes on work which will be intelligible to others.
 - (d) Success in meeting people, addressing gatherings, etc.
 - (e) Success in organizing constructive work with farmers.
 - (f) Ability to prepare results for publication in a satisfactory manner.
 - (g) Ability to cooperate harmoniously and effectively with other investigators in the Bureau and outside.
 - (h) Executive capacity.
 - (i) Efficiency and energy as shown in ability to accomplish results.
 - (j) Proficiency in foreign languages.

Form 2 is essentially a personal statement sheet and will be filled out by each scientific employee in the Bureau, and will develop information as to his education, experience, character of work, honors and affiliations, publications, etc. Copies of this form will be distributed in a short time and should be submitted promptly.

LIBRARY.

Miss Mabel Colcord, Librarian.

NEW BOOKS.

- Bailey, L. H. Standard cyclopedia of horticulture. v.4. L-O. New York, Macmillan company, 1916.
- Duckett, A. B. Notes on a little-known rabbit ear mite (*Psoroptes cuniculi* Megnin) (Journal of the American veterinary medical association, v.48, no.6, p. 726-730, March, 1916)
- Flytraps for slaughtering and meat-packing establishments. (U.S.Dept. Agri. Bureau of Animal Industry. Service and regulatory announcements 105, p. 2-4, 4 figs. Feb. 28, 1916)
- Holborow, A. G. Notes relating to arsenical dipping fluids. (Rhodesia agr.journ. v.12, no.6, p. 785-788, Dec. 1915)
- Kasargode, S. & Deshpande, V. G. The rice stem borer in the Konkan. (India-Bombay presidency- Dept. of agr. Bul.69, 1915)
- Kellogg, V. L. & Ferris, G. F. The Anoplura and Mallophaga of North American mammals. Stanford university, Cal. 1915. 74p.
- Mass. State Board of agr. Sixth annual report of the State inspector of apiaries (Burton N. Gates) 1915. (Apiary inspection Bul. 10, Dec. 8, 1915) Bul. 10-a is Spraying versus beekeeping.
- Roberg, D. N. The role played by insects of the dipterous family Phoridae in relation to the spread of bacterial infections II. Experiments on *Apiochaeta ferruginea* with the cholera vibrio (Phillipine journ. science v.10, p. 309-339, 1915)
- Warren, Alfred. A study of the food habits of the Hawaiian dragonflies or Pinau with reference to their economic relation to other insects. Honolulu, Published by the College Oct.1915. 45p. (College of Hawaii publications Bulletin No.3)
- White, James. Altitudes in the Dominion of Canada. ed. 2. By James White assisted by George F. Ferguson. Ottawa, 1915. 603p. maps.

BEE CULTURE.

E. F. Phillips, In Charge.

Mr. Geo. S. Demuth attended the meeting of the Pennsylvania State Bee-Keepers' Association at Lancaster on March 3-4.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

As a result of experiments carried on by this branch during the past winter, it has been determined that *Laphygma frugiperda* wintered over in the pupal and larval stages as far north as northern Florida and central Texas but failed to do so in Oklahoma. The results in wintering-over experiments have not yet been secured for Kansas, Georgia and South Carolina.

The "green bug" outlook for Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas is considerably improved over the conditions of last fall. However, there is still a possibility of a serious infestation of this insect during the coming spring, providing meteorological conditions prove favorable for this.

The field station formerly conducted by this branch at Nashville, Tenn., has been moved to Knoxville. The post office address is R. F. D. #9, Knoxville, Tenn.

Mr. C. F. Turner, who has been stationed temporarily at Hagerstown, Md., for the purpose of conducting some histological and biological studies, will shortly return to his field station at Greenwood, Miss.

Mr. P. R. Myers, of the Hagerstown, Md. laboratory, recently visited Washington for the purpose of consulting the collections of the U. S.. National Museum in connection with investigations of the parasites of the Hessian fly.

Mr. S. L. Mason has been appointed as scientific assistant in the Bureau of Entomology and detailed to assist Mr. John J. Davis at the West Lafayette, Ind. field station. Mr. Mason takes the place of Mr. Daniel G. Tower, who has been transferred to the Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Insect Investigations.

DECIDUOUS-FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

A. L. Quaintance, In Charge.

Mr. E. W. Geyer, formerly in charge of the Bureau's laboratory at Roswell, New Mexico has severed his connection with the Bureau.

Mr. R. J. Fiske is now in charge of the Bureau's laboratory at Roswell, New Mexico, and is engaged in codling moth investigations.

Mr. H. B. Scammell, in charge of the Bureau's laboratory at Brown Mills, N. J., spent a few days in Washington and has now returned to his headquarters to resume his studies of cranberry insects.

Mr. E. H. Siegler, who has been in Washington for the past few months, has now returned to his field headquarters at Grand Junction, Colo., where he is engaged in codling moth investigations.

Mr. H. K. Plank, who has been assisting Mr. Scammell in cranberry insect investigations, has been transferred to the Bureau's laboratory at Grand Junction, where he will assist Mr. Siegler in codling moth investigations.

Mr. A. J. Ackerman has been in Washington for a few weeks preparing his notes on the subject of nursery insects and has now returned to his headquarters at West Chester, Pa.

Mr. A. C. Baker, who has been engaged in life history studies of plant lice, with headquarters at Vienna, Va., has been transferred to Washington, D. C. as permanent headquarters, where he will continue life history studies of plant lice and systematic work with aphididae.

Mr. W. F. Turner, who has been assisting Mr. A. C. Baker at Vienna, Va. in life history studies of plant lice, resigned from the Bureau to accept appointment with the Georgia State Entomologist, with headquarters at Thomasville, Ga.

FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

A. D. Hopkins, In Charge.

At the Southern Rocky Mountain Station, Colorado Springs, Colorado, a camp was established on March 7 on the east slope of Pike's Peak, at an altitude of 9500 feet. From this station special studies will be made by Mr. J. H. Pollock of the "Relation of Altitude to the Periodical Phenomena of Insects", along with other special and general projects.

In Waldo Canyon, within the Pike National Forest, Colorado, at an altitude of 7500 feet, an outdoor cage will be constructed surrounding and covering the main trunk of a 20" diameter yellow pine tree, infested by *Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopk. The butt cut will be left intact and other sections stood up within the cage. A study will be made by Messrs. W. D. Edmonston and George Hofer of the flight habits of this important tree destroyer. Other infested trees in close proximity will also be utilized for study.

In Palmer Park, and North Cheyenne Canyon, within a short distance of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Mr. George Hofer will make a study of *Agrilus acutipennis* var. in relation to the dying of oak trees within the City and Mountain Parks.

SOUTHERN FIELD CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

W. D. Hunter, In Charge.

Dr. W. V. King left New Orleans on March 26 to resume the work against the spotted-fever tick at Florence, Montana.

G. H. Cowan and M. S. Stanley have been appointed temporary field assistants in connection with the work on the Rocky Mountain spotted-fever tick.

D. L. Van Dine left Washington on March 25 to resume his work on malaria mosquitoes at Mound, La.

F. C. Bishopp who underwent a surgical operation in February is now on active duty.

TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.
C. L. Marlatt, In Charge.

It will be of interest to members of the Bureau to know that the cotton fumigating plants in Boston, concerning which several notes have been given in previous numbers of this monthly letter, are now in active operation. Over 1200 bales of cotton have already been fumigated in the two plants now available. These plants, furthermore, are being rapidly enlarged so that ultimately their capacity will be approximately 1000 bales a day each. It is very satisfactory to know that these plants are in successful operation, inasmuch as this large-scale work has been hitherto on a somewhat theoretical basis. As previously noted, this work represents the largest insect fumigating plants which the world has ever seen, and undoubtedly very much the largest investment ever made for this purpose.

We are also advised that the fumigation plant at Oakland, Cal., to meet the needs of the port of San Francisco, is again in readiness. In common with one of the plants in Boston, this Oakland plant had a breakdown, not having originally been made strong enough to stand the vacuum pressure. A similar plant is in process of construction at Newark, N. J., and probably before long there will be a plant of the same kind available in New York City. Plants at other ports are also being contemplated. These are all private concerns, and make a regular charge for disinfection.

Dr. Back has returned to Washington, and is engaged in writing up his general report on the Mediterranean fruit fly.

Mr. Horton has closed up his station at New Orleans and has left for Southern California to study the Argentine ant as affected by Pacific Coast conditions. He will do this work in cooperation with Mr. Woglum at the Pasadena Station. The California end of this investigation will probably be completed within two or three months.

Mr. Yothers is about to take up a new phase of the citrus insect problem of Florida, namely, a study of the insects and insect control in relation to the extensive cultures of limes on the Florida Keys. Mr. Yothers has been requested to submit a detailed project plan of this work for approval.

